

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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TRSE-00 HA-05 OMB-01 /103 W
-----083130 030548Z /15

R 301135Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7651
INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 03118

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IR
SUBJ: CIVIL ORDER: TEHRAN QUIET

REF: TEHRAN 03034 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ON 40TH DAY ANNIVERSARY OF TABRIZ RIOTS, TEHRAN VERY QUIET, AND ONLY MINOR DISTURBANCES REPORTED IN A FEW OTHER IRANIAN CITIES. PRESS HAS CRITICIZED "HOOLIGANS" WHO OPERATE OUTSIDE LAW. END SUMMARY.

1. DESPITE A FEW PREDICTIONS OF DEMONSTRATIONS, TEHRAN HAS EXPERIENCED ONE OF ITS QUIETEST DAYS. FOLLOWING EXHORTATIONS FROM RELIGIOUS LEADERS, TEHRAN BAZAAR SHOPS DID NOT OPEN TODAY, BUT AS OF 1300, THERE HAVE BEEN NO PUBLIC MANIFESTATIONS OF DISORDER. SOME OTHER MERCHANTS IN OTHER PARTS OF CITY CLOSED STORES, MANY OF THEM RELIGIOUS MINORITY SHOPOWNERS BEING PRUDENT IN FACE OF VARIOUS RUMORED THREATS (REF A).

2. COMMUNITY CHURCH HAS EXPERIENCED NO RPT NO MORE THREATS OR INCIDENTS SINCE POLICE GUARDS WERE PLACED
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AROUND PREMISES EVENING OF MARCH 29 (REF B).

3. IN OTHER CITIES, PRESS MARCH 30 REPORTED WINDOW-SMASHING OF RESURGENCE PARTY HEADQUARTERS IN ABADAN TUESDAY AND NOTED ISFAHAN INCIDENTS REPORTED REFTTEL. FIRE OF UNIDENTIFIED ORIGIN IN BABOL NIGHT MARCH 28, WHICH DESTROYED NUMBER OF SHOPS BEFORE BEING EXTINGUISHED.

TO DATE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF DELIBERATE ARSON BUT NATURAL SUSPICIONS PERSIST. LOCAL RADIO AT 1400 REPORTED ADDITIONAL INCIDENTS AGAINST BANKS MARCH 29 IN YAZD, ZAHEDAN AND MASHAD. OUR SHIRAZ CONSULATE REPORTS ALL QUIET THERE, EXCEPT FOR SMALL DISTURBANCES IN BAZAAR WHICH BEGAN ABOUT NOON MARCH 30 AND POLICE HAVE UNDER CONTROL. MEDIA SAID ISFAHAN SAW ATTACKS AGAINST BANK AND POLICE CAR MARCH 29, NOTHING SO FAR MARCH 30; CONSULATE SAYS POLICE CHASED OFF ATTACKERS BY FIRING INTO CAR. THERE HAVE BEEN NO ARRESTS. TABRIZ TOTALLY QUIET. IN ONLY CASE WHERE ARRESTS REPORTED, COLLEGE STUDENTS FROM COLLEGE OF ARTS IN AHWAZ REPORTEDLY WENT TO DEZFUL, 100 KILOMETERS AWAY, AND ATTACKED BANKS; FIVE STUDENTS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED.

4. AT QAZVIN, 2A.M. MARCH 30, POLICE ATTEMPTED TO ARREST TWO INDIVIDUALS DRIVING A PEYKAN FOR PASSING OUT "LEFTIST LITERATURE". OCCUPANTS OF CAR OPENED FIRE, AND ONE WAS KILLED BY POLICE WHILE OTHER ESCAPED. POLICE FOUND NUMBER OF INCRIMINATING ITEMS IN CAR INCLUDING LITERATURE, WEAPONS AND FORGED IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

5. KEYHAN ENGLISH EDITION CARRIED EDITORIAL MARCH 30 REITERATING THEME THAT IRAN'S NATIONAL SOLIDATITY WILL DEFEAT THE "UNHOLY ALLIANCE" FOR LEFT AND RIGHT FORCES. IT POINTED OUT HOOLIGANS ARE RESORTING TO ILLEGAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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DESTRUCTIVE ACTS AND ASSERTED IT IS A CRIME FOR THOSE WHO TAKE TO THE STREETS TO DENY PURSUIT OF LIFE WITHIN LAW TO OTHERS. TEHRAN JOURNAL SMAE DAY NOTED NEW EAST AZARBAIJAN GOVERNOR SHAFAGAT HAD CALLED FOR IMPROVEMENT OF TABRIZ ENVIRONMENT BY CREATION OF CITY'S FIRST SEWAGE SYSTEM. EDITORIAL, IN FLIGHT OF RHETORIC, SPOKE OF SPING WINDS OF CHANGE ACROSS IRAN AND CALLED ON OTHER CITIES TO GET MOVING ON DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM PROGRAMS.

6. WE UNDERSTAND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN QOM EXPECT SOME DEMONSTRATIONS THERE AFTERNOON MARCH 30. QOM HAS BEEN CENTER OF RUMORED DEMONSTRATIONS FOR OVER SIX WEEKS; HOWEVER, THOSE FEW WHICH HAVE ACTUALLY OCCURRED SINCE JAN. 9 RIOTS HAVE BEEN IN VERY LOW KEY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY HANDLED BY POLICE.
SULLIVAN

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